

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /141 W

-----010263 280809Z /14

R 280725Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7706
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, ID
SUBJECT: MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA'S CANDIDATURE FOR PRESIDENCY
OF LOS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) JAKARTA 2966, (B) STATE 70035

1. RESPECTED JAKARTA DAILY SINAR HARAPAN IN ITS MARCH 27
ISSUE QUOTES JUSTICE MINISTER AND ACTING FONMIN MOCHTAR
KUSUMAATMADJA AS CONFIRMING REPORTS FROM UN THAT HE IS BEING
MENTIONED AS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE LAW OF THE SEA
CONFERENCE. MOCHTAR REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT HIS CANDI-
DATURE WAS BEING ADVANCED BY THE U.S., AUSTRALIA AND CANADA.

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE AND THE GOVERNMENT WERE WILLING
FOR HIM TO ASSUME THIS POSITION. MOCHTAR IS QUOTED AS SAYING,
"AS FOR MYSELF, THERE IS NO PROBLEM SINCE MANY DELEGATION
CHAIRMEN ARE APPARENTLY SUPPORTING THIS CANDIDACY". MOCHTAR
ALSO NOTED THAT SELECTION OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENT COULD TAKE
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TWO WEEKS AND DEPLORED THIS LOSS OF THE CONFERENCE'S VALUABLE
TIME.

3. AS IN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS TO NEWSMEN, MOCHTAR CITED THE
DEEP SEABEDS EXPLOITATION ARTICLES AS THE OUSTANDING ISSUE
BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WERE SIGNS THAT A PARALLEL SYSTEM
FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD COULD BE APPROVED. ASKED HIS OPIN-

ION ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT FOR DEEP SEABEDS MINING
LEGISLATION ANNOUNCED BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON AT THE END
OF LAST MONTH, MOCHTAR SAID THIS STATEMENT DID NOT CONTRI-
BUTE TO A FRUITFUL ATMOSPHERE AT THE CONFERENCE.

4. FONDEPT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION HATTA TOLD US PRIVATELY
THAT MOCHTAR'S COMMENTS WERE PROBABLY CORRECTLY REPORTED BY
SINAR HARAPAN. HE STATED AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT
MOCHTAR'S IMPENDING APPOINTMENT AS FONMIN IN THE NEW CABINET
WOULD NOT RULE OUT HIS BECOMING LOS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT.

5. AMBASSADOR TRANSMITTED TEXT OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S
MARCH 16 PRESS CONFERENCE TO MOCHTAR BY LETTER ON MARCH 20,
CALLING ATTENTION IN PARTICULAR TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S
REMARKS ON CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF A SEABED MINING BILL
AND SOLICITING MOCHTAR'S COMMENTS. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
AND FORMATION OF NEW CABINET HAVE, HOWEVER, PREVENTED FUR-
THER COMMUNICATIONS WITH MOCHTAR IN THE INTERIM. WE ALSO
PROVIDED TEXT OF THE MARCH 16 PRESS CONFERENCE TO OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN LOS DELEGATION, BUT THEY DEPARTED
JAKARTA FOR GENEVA BEFORE WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS.

MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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